

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, implanted on a molecular level at a depth within at least a region of a surface of the stent.
2. (Previously presented) The stent of Claim 21, wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
3. (Previously presented) The stent of Claim 21, wherein the depth of the implanted  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is not greater than about 2000 Å from the surface of the stent.
4. (Previously presented) The stent of Claim 21, additionally comprising a layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound deposited on the region of the surface of the stent where the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is implanted.
5. (Original) The stent of Claim 4, wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
6. (Original) The stent of Claim 4, wherein the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is not more than about 48,000 Å in thickness.
7. (Original) The stent of Claim 1, wherein the stent is made from stainless steel.
8. (Original) The stent of Claim 1, wherein the surface is the tissue-contacting surface of the stent.
9. (Previously presented) The stent of Claim 1 comprising a layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  and a layer of Ti, N, or TiN disposed beneath the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$ .

10. (Original) The stent of Claim 9, wherein a region of the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  is implanted at a depth within a surface of the stent.
11. (Canceled).
12. (Canceled).
13. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a surface of a stent, comprising implanting a compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, on a molecular level at a depth within a surface of the stent.
14. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22 wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
15. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 22 additionally comprising forming a layer of a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound on the surface of the stent where the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is implanted.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 13, wherein the stent is made from stainless steel.
18. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein prior to the act of implanting the compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, within the surface of the stent, the method comprises implanting Ti or N within the surface of the stent.
19. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a stent surface, comprising implanting Ti, N, or TiN into the surface of the stent on a molecular level and forming a

layer of a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound over the areas where Ti, N, or TiN has been implanted.

20. (Canceled).
21. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound implanted on a molecular level at a depth within at least a region of a surface of the stent.
22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, comprising implanting a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound at a depth within a surface of the stent.
23. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, implanted by plasma reaction on a molecular level at a depth within at least a region of a surface of the stent.
24. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 23 wherein the stent is made from stainless steel.
25. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 23 wherein the surface is the tissue-contacting surface of the stent.
26. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 23 comprising a layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  and a layer of Ti, N, or TiN disposed beneath the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$ .
27. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 26 wherein a region of the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  is implanted by plasma reaction at a depth within a surface of the stent.
28. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound implanted by plasma reaction on a molecular level at a depth within at least a region of a sur-

face of the stent.

29. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 28 wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
30. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 28 wherein the depth of the implanted  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is not greater than about 2000 Å from the surface of the stent.
31. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 28 additionally comprising a layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound deposited on the region of the surface of the stent where the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is implanted.
32. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 31 wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
33. (Previously Presented) The stent of Claim 31 wherein the layer of  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is not more than about 48,000 Å in thickness.
34. (Currently amended) A stent comprising a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound implanted by plasma reaction on a molecular level at a depth within at least a region of a surface of the stent.
35. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a surface of a stent, comprising implanting by plasma reaction on a molecular level a compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, at a depth within a surface of the stent.
36. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35 additionally comprising forming a layer of a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound on the surface of the stent where the  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound is implanted.
37. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35 comprising implanting by

plasma reaction a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound at a depth within a surface of the stent.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36 wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
39. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein x is 1 and y is 1 or 2.
40. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein the stent is made from stainless steel.
41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35 wherein prior to the act of implanting the compound including Ti, N, C, or including Ti, N, O, or both, within the surface of the stent, the method comprises implanting Ti or N within the surface of the stent.
42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 35 comprising implanting a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound at a depth within a surface of the stent.
43. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a stent surface, comprising implanting by plasma reaction on a molecular level Ti, N, or TiN into the surface of the stent and forming a layer of a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{O}_y$  compound over the areas where Ti, N, or TiN has been implanted.
44. (Currently amended) A method of modifying a surface of a stent, comprising implanting a  $\text{TiN}_x\text{C}_y$  compound on a molecular level at a depth within a surface of the stent or depositing the compound on the surface of the stent.